

\* 13. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 1 wherein said pump is coupled to said multi-mode fiber along said cavity axis. \*

11. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 13 additionally comprising an optical coupler for coupling said pump to said multi-mode fiber.

12. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 13 additionally comprising a v-groove on said multi-mode optical fiber for coupling said pump to said multi-mode fiber.

\* 13. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 1 additionally comprising a polarization beam splitter for outputting said ultra-short optical pulses from said laser. \*

14. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 1 wherein said cavity comprises a pair of reflectors at its opposite ends.

15. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 17 wherein one of said pair of reflectors is partially reflecting and provides the output for said cavity.

16. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 17 wherein said mode locking mechanism comprises a saturable absorber, and wherein one of said reflectors is formed on a surface of said saturable absorber.

17. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 19 wherein said mode locking mechanism additionally comprises a power limiter for protecting said saturable absorber, and wherein said saturable absorber is formed on a surface of said power limiter opposite said one of said reflectors.

18. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 20 wherein said power limiter comprises a two-photon absorber.

19. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 1 additionally comprising a linear phase drift compensator on said cavity axis.

20. (Currently Amended) A laser [for generating ultra short optical pulses] as defined in Claim 22 wherein said linear phase drift compensator comprises a Faraday rotator.